

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 438

September 15, 1995, 2:17 p.m.
Page S-13646 Temp. Record

WELFARE REFORM BILL/Vouchers After Cash Benefits Expire

SUBJECT: Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995 . . . H.R. 4. Daschle/Kennedy amendment No. 2682 to the Dole modified perfecting amendment No. 2280 to the committee substitute amendment.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 44-48

SYNOPSIS: As reported with a committee substitute amendment, H.R. 4, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995, will overhaul 6 of the Nation's 10 largest welfare programs.

The Dole modified perfecting amendment would strike the provisions of the committee substitute amendment and insert in lieu thereof substitute provisions, entitled "The Work Opportunity Act of 1995."

The Daschle/Kennedy amendment would allow States to use funds from family assistance grants to provide non-cash assistance to the children of needy families who were ineligible for assistance because they had reached the lifetime limits as provided in the Dole amendment. (The Dole amendment would create family assistance block grants as a replacement for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children welfare program. Under the Dole amendment, assistance could not be given to a family that included an adult who had received benefits from family assistance grants for 60 months or more during his or her adult lifetime (or for a lesser period of time, at a State's option). A State would be permitted to exempt up to 15 percent of the families receiving Federal family assistance block grant benefits from this lifetime limit. Subsequent to the vote on this amendment, the allowable exemption was raised to 20 percent.)

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The Daschle amendment would give the States the option of providing non-cash assistance for the children of families that exceeded their lifetime eligibility limits for family assistance grants. We do not think that the children of parents who have failed to find work and have refused to take a government job should be punished for their parents' failure. Accordingly, we believe it is an eminently reasonable proposal to provide vouchers for the care of such children. Those vouchers would be for the children's

(See other side)

YEAS (44)		NAYS (48)		NOT VOTING (8)	
Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (44 or 100%)	Republicans (48 or 100%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (6)	Democrats (2)
Akaka	Johnston	Abraham	Helms	Bond- ²	Boxer- ²
Baucus	Kennedy	Ashcroft	Hutchison	Chafee- ²	Harkin- ²
Biden	Kerrey	Bennett	Inhofe	Nickles- ²	
Bingaman	Kerry	Brown	Jeffords	Simpson- ²	
Bradley	Kohl	Burns	Kassebaum	Stevens- ²	
Breaux	Lautenberg	Campbell	Kempthorne	Thomas- ^{2AN}	
Bryan	Leahy	Coats	Kyl		
Bumpers	Levin	Cochran	Lott		
Byrd	Lieberman	Cohen	Lugar		
Conrad	Mikulski	Coverdell	Mack		
Daschle	Moseley-Braun	Craig	McCain		
Dodd	Moynihan	D'Amato	McConnell		
Dorgan	Murray	DeWine	Murkowski		
Exon	Nunn	Dole	Packwood		
Feingold	Pell	Domenici	Pressler		
Feinstein	Pryor	Faircloth	Roth		
Ford	Reid	Frist	Santorum		
Glenn	Robb	Gorton	Shelby		
Graham	Rockefeller	Gramm	Smith		
Heflin	Sarbanes	Grams	Snowe		
Hollings	Simon	Grassley	Specter		
Inouye	Wellstone	Gregg	Thompson		
		Hatch	Thurmond		
		Hatfield	Warner		

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

benefit, not their parents. Under the Dole amendment, States would not be allowed to give vouchers using Federal family assistance grant funds. The Daschle amendment would give them the option, if they wished, of providing vouchers. There are 9 million kids currently on welfare--States should have great flexibility in ensuring that none of them are harmed by this reform bill. The Daschle amendment would help protect children on welfare, and therefore deserves our support.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

We thought this issue had been settled in the leadership amendment which will soon be offered. After long and intense negotiations on that amendment, both proponents and opponents of individual lifetime limits for welfare agreed to support a 20-percent hardship exemption instead of the 15-percent exemption currently in the Dole amendment. Now, though, we are presented with this amendment which would effectively allow States to exempt virtually everyone from the lifetime limit. They may say that the vouchers would benefit only the children, but as a practical matter we all realize that their parents would also benefit. This amendment does not seem to us to be in keeping with the commitment we have received from our colleagues to support the 20-percent compromise. We are surprised that the amendment has been offered, and will of course vote for its defeat.